Weapons Convention with the goal of achieving a nuclear weapons free world. However, these initiatives have not yet led to a broad engagement enabling a dialogue on the objective of time bound global nuclear disarmament.

Oil Refineries in Orissa

*329. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up some oil refineries in Orissa is pending with Government; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Government has approved the proposal of IOC to set up a 9 MMTPA refinery at Abhayachandarpur near Paradip in Orissa in Joint Venture with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), at an estimated cost of Rs. 8270 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 2484 crores (May 1998 Prices). The IOC equity contribution in the project would be upto Rs. 860 crores.

Government has also given LOI's to M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Limited (now Ispat Industries Limited) to set up a 9 MMTPA refinery project and to M/s. Ashok Leyland to set up a 2 MMTPA lube refinery project in Orissa.

Monitoring Cell for MPLAD Fund

*330. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no monitoring Cell at the Centre to monitor the M.P. Local Area Development Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternative arrangements Government have made or propose to make to monitor the M.P. Local Area Development Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Department of Programme Implementation has the nodal responsibility for the Scheme at the Centre including its monitoring. For effective implementation of the works under MPLADS each State Govt./UT Administration has to designate one nodal Department for physical monitoring through field inspection and for coordination with the Department of Programme Implementation, Government of India. The heads of Districts are required to visit and inspect atleast 10% of these works every year. Likewise, Officers at the Subdivisional & Block level and of implementing agencies are also required to monitor implementation of these works through visits to work-sites.

Period for Restoration of Commuted Value of Pension

*331. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not accepted the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation with regard to reducing the period for restoration of commuted value of pension from 15 to 12 years;

(b) whether raising the limit of commutation from 1/3rd to 40 per cent of the pension is one of the reasons for not reducing the said period;

(c) whether the benefit of increased limit of commutation is available only to post-1st January, 1996 retirees; and

(d) whether Government propose to extend the benefit to pre-1st January, 1996 retirees as well of reduce the period of restoration of commutation in their case; if not, the reasons therefor?